PORT AND BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(J. HAMILTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR THE YEAR

1950

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

(H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.)

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BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Full-time

Medical Officer of Health : J. HAMILTON, M.B., CH.B. D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector J. H. BUTLER, M.S.I.A. A.R.SAN.I.

Part-time

Veterinary Surgeon : H. C. SWANN, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst : S. GREENBURGH, PH.D., B.SC., F.R.I.C.

PORT AND BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN

ANNUAL REPORT
# of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of The Borough of King's Lynn.

Mr. Mayor, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, for your information and consideration, the Annual Report for the year 1950, on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough and Port of King's Lynn.

The Poliomyelitis epidemic which began in July 1949 persisted till the end of the first quarter of the year. 6 cases were reported in 1950.

There was a case of Typhoid Fever, the first since 1940, and one of Diphtheria, last reported in 1947.

Measles had its biggest outbreak since the disease became notifiable in 1939.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis notifications rose sharply, due in part at least to the visit of the mobile Mass Radiography Unit from the end of April until the middle of June. The work of the Unit was of great value. The early detection of Tuberculosis is supremely important and regular visits from a Radiography Unit would be a great community service.

Ample water for the future should be assured by the agreement with the Freebridge Lynn Rural District Council for the use of the abundant supply that can be brought from Hillington.

Byelaws made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 came into operation on 18th September, their purposes being to secure clean practices in the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and in the sale of food in the open air.

I thank the Chairman and the Members of the Health Committee for the courtesy and consideration shown to the Public Health Staff during the year.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
J. HAMILTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

(1949 *figures in parentheses.*)

Population 26,110 (25,880)

Births.	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Livebirths			
Legitimate	203 (197)	210 (218)	413 (411)
Illegitimate	16 (18)	19 (12)	35 (30)
	219 (215)	229 (226)	448 (441)
Stillbirths			
Legitimate	5 (9)	4 (9)	9 (18)
Illegitimate	—	1 (2)	1 (2)
	5 (9)	5 (11)	10 (20)

Deaths.	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Deaths, all causes	168 (147)	150 (154)	318 (301)
Deaths under 1 year			
Legitimate	8 (9)	5 (7)	13 (16)
Illegitimate	2 (2)	1 (0)	3 (2)
	10 (11)	6 (7)	16 (18)
Deaths, Tuberculosis			
Pulmonary	5 (7)	1 (3)	6 (10)
Non Pulmonary	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
	5 (7)	1 (3)	6 (10)
Maternal Mortality	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

Rates per 1,000 Population

Births	17.50 (17.81)
Birth rate — England and Wales	15.8 (16.7)
Birth rate — the 148 smaller towns (25,000 — 50,000)	16.7 (18.0)
Stillbirths	0.38 (0.77)
Birth rate — England and Wales	0.37 (0.39)
Birth rate — the 148 smaller towns	0.38 (0.40)

Deaths	11.44 (10.92)
Death rate — England and Wales	11.6 (11.7)
Death rate — the 148 smaller towns	11.6 (11.6)
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	35.71 (40.81)
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age in England and Wales per 1,000 live births	29.8 (32.00)
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births — the 148 smaller towns	29.4 (30.00)
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.22 (0.386)
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in England and Wales	0.36 (0.45)
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis — the the 148 smaller towns ~~per 1,000 births~~	0.33 (0.42)

With the slight increase in the estimated population, the birth rate is approximately the same as last year.

The number of stillbirths was half that of the figures for 1948 and 1949, reflecting credit on antenatal and midwifery practice.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system were the main causes of deaths among the aged ; with Cancer also prominent.

There were 58 deaths from Cancer, three more than in 1949. Almost all those affected were elderly.

Between the ages of 15 and 45, 20 deaths were registered. Only three of these could be considered probably preventable ; 2 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 death from Rheumatic Heart Disease.

Over 1 year and under 15 years there were 2 deaths, 1 of Cerebral Haemorrhage in an infant, and a preventable death from Rheumatic Heart Disease in a girl of 11.

16 deaths were results of Infectious Diseases *viz.*, 11 " Pneumonias ," 2 Influenzas, 1 Meningitis (cause not stated) and 1 Poliomyelitis.

Poliomyelitis was the death of an 8 year old boy, and Meningitis caused the death of a baby.

Pneumonia resulted in 2 infant deaths. The rest of the " Pneumonias " and the Influenzas occurred in elderly people, mainly debilitated by existing ailments and/or age.

Syphilitic infection accounted for 1 death.

There was no Maternal Mortality.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO DISEASES.

	Cause of Death.	*Males*	*Females*	*Totals*
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	1	6
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
4.	Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
5.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
6.	Malignant Neoplasm : Stomach	10	6	16
7.	Malignant Neoplasm : Lung	3	2	5
8.	Malignant Neoplasm : Breast	—	6	6
9.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	19	12	31
10.	Diabetes	1	1	2
11.	Vascular Lesions : Nervous System	15	16	31
12.	Coronary Disease : Angina	9	14	23
13.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	5	8
14.	Other Heart Diseases	36	35	71
15.	Other Circulatory Diseases	8	6	14
16.	Influenza	1	1	2
17.	Pneumonia	4	7	11
18.	Bronchitis	8	6	14
19.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	—	2
20.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
21.	Gastritis : Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
22.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	2	5
23.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	7	—	7
24.	Congential Malformations	—	1	1
25.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	21	20	41
26.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
27.	All other Accidents	6	6	12
28.	Suicide	2	—	2
29.	Homicide	1	—	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY

There were 16 deaths of children under 1 year, 9 of them being less than 4 weeks old.

The causes of deaths were :—

Prematurity	6
Pneumonia	1
Bronchopneumonia	1
Atelectasis	1
Meningitis	1
Erythroblastosis	1
Exfoliative Dermatitis	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1
Multiple Congenital Deformation	1
Asphyxia, accidental death	2

6 of 11 premature infants did not survive. In 1949 there were 3 deaths out of 11 premature births.

Perhaps 6 of the 18 infant deaths might have been preventable.

From the registered number of deaths the Infantile Mortality rate is 35.71. Subtracting the 2 accidental deaths, the rate from disease, or defect incompatible with survival would be 31.47.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES CLASSIFIED IN AGES AND LOCALITIES.

DISEASE	Total all ages	Age Groups.							Wards.					
		Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and over	Gay-wood	Cen-tral	Chase	South West	St. Mar-garets	North
Scarlet Fever	30	—	18	12	—	—	—	—	12	5	5	4	1	3
Measles	903	30	576	278	11	8	—	—	244	138	83	170	73	195
Whooping Cough ...	130	10	96	21	—	—	3	—	23	24	32	21	12	18
Chicken Pox	80	3	24	50	—	3	—	—	19	10	10	15	8	18
Pneumonia	21	2	6	3	2	1	4	3	7	4	5	2	3	—
Jaundice	14	—	1	4	5	3	1	—	3	5	2	1	—	3
Poliomyelitis	6	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	1
Erysipelas	6	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	1	2	2	—	1	—
Typhoid	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculsois (Pulmonary)	42	—	2	7	17	10	6	—	15	6	1	9	2	9
Tuberculosis (other forms)	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	1
Para Typhoid	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	6	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	6	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
	1251	48	729	383	37	34	16	4	327	195	146	235	100	248

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was a notable increase in the number (1251) of cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases compared with 1949 (532), and this was due to widespread Measles (903) cases.

There was also a rise in the number (130) of Whooping Cough cases compared with the previous year (88) and appreciable decreases in Scarlet Fever, Pneumonia, Jaundice and Chicken Pox notifications.

Measles.

Is epidemic at roughly two years intervals. The last outbreak of any size (369 cases) was in 1947, and a measles epidemic was expected in 1949. Instead of this occurring the number (26) of cases was very low, with the result that when the measles epidemic did come along in 1950 it had added to it, almost all of the " susceptibles " of 1949 to produce the largest number of measles cases since measles first appeared in the Annual Reports, 1940, when 828 cases were notified.

The epidemic started in mid April, rose to, and was sustained at a high level during May (631 cases), reached its peak in the third week (203 cases) of that month, then declined to its end in July.

The great majority of those infected were children of 7 years and under.

63.8% were children under 5, and 30 of these were less than 1 year old. The degree of illness was from mild to moderate.

There were no hospital admissions.

When notification of first cases in schools was timely, children 7 years and under, who had no record of having had measles were excluded for a period.

In some cases this proceedure appeared to restrain spread in the school.

The School Nurses visited the schools as regularly as possible to advise on preventive measures.

Whooping Cough.

A minor epidemic (130 cases) of Whooping Cough began in April, reached its height in May and June, and subsided in August.

2 cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

The majority of the cases were under 5 years of age.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever remains a mild infection.

18 of the 30 cases were under school age.

6 cases were removed to hospital for satisfactory isolation.

Practically half of the cases were reported in January, the remainder occuring as odd infections in each month, excepting September and December.

As in 1949 preventive treatment was given to school carriers of the causative germ, and again the numbers affected were too small for an assessment of the real value of the practice.

Poliomyelitis.

6 cases, with 1 death from Poliomyelitis were notified.

Paralysis was slight in 2 ; severe in 4 of these cases.

5 of the 6 cases occurred in the first quarter of the year.

The last case, one of very slight paralysis was reported in August.

10 cases and 2 deaths have been the result of the epidemic which began in July, 1949.

As in 1949 searching enquiries were made in each case, in the hope of discovering the medium of infection.

Infected food, water, milk, flies, etc., were considered to be unlikely vehicles of transmission.

4 of the 6 cases had been in close contact with others suffering with heavy " colds " or " influenza " from 5 to 14 days beforehand.

3 of the 4 cases of 1949 had a similiar history.

This is suggestive of direct infection, by the coughing and sneezing of those whose virus infection symptoms were limited to catarrh.

Poliomyelitis 1949 - 1950

Age Group	*Cases*	*Results*
Up to 10 years	3	1 death. 1 paralysis ; leg. 1 full recovery.
10 to 20 years	1	1 paralysis ; both legs.
20 to 30 years	4	1 death. 2 paralysis ; both legs. 1 full recovery.
30 to 40 years	2	1 paralysis ; both legs. 1 partial paralysis ; leg and arm.

Typhoid Fever.

On 14th August, a woman was diagnosed by her doctor as a case of Typhoid Fever, and removed to hospital. Every effort was made, without positive result, to trace her source of infection, in the town, and at her regular workplace in the East Elloe district.

Her son had been in the Isolation Hospital, in 1940, as a Typhoid patient, but repeated laboratory investigations failed to prove that he was a typhoid " carrier ".

The family doctor gave prophylactic injections to the others in the house.

Cerebrospinal Fever.

A 2 year old boy had Cerebrospinal Fever in August and made a complete recovery. Appropriate preventive measures were applied to the household.

Diphtheria.

A case of Diphtheria was reported in August, the first since 1947.

The patient a girl of 6 had a mild infection.

Immunisation and re-immunisation was carried out at her school, and the pupils kept under observation for an appropriate period.

Food Poisoning.

6 cases of " Food Poisoning " were notified in July among a party of ten who had gathered in a house from 10th — 12th July, for a wedding on the latter day. The people concerned had attacks of Diarrhoea and Vomiting at different times during the 2 days. 3 of the party had left for their home in the North, before the cases were reported. Enquiries to the Medical Officer indicated that these 3 had not been affected.

Specimens of suspected foods were sent to the Public Health Laboratory and proved harmless, as were samples of artificial cream and chocolate filling, which had been got from a bakers ; the last of a lot, of which the party had had share.

Specimens from food handlers in the various shops supplying the house were also examined, and found free of injurious matter.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination.

	Primary	*Re-vaccination*
Under 5 years	81	3
5 to 15 years	8	1
15 years and over	36	63
	125	67
		125
	TOTAL	192

Since July 5th, 1948, Vaccination against Smallpox has been no longer compulsory. Now, comparatively few parents take advantage for their children's sake, of free Vaccination, a harmless proceedure that definitely protects against Smallpox, which if it does not kill causes severe facial disfigurement.

Immunisation.

Primary Immunisation.

Under 5 years	393
Over 5 years	125
TOTAL	518

Reinforcing Injections	418

Percentage (estimated) of children under 5 years immunised—67.65.

Percentage (estimated) of children 5 to 15 years immunised —82.44.

The immunisation state among school children is highly satisfactory, and that among children under school age, has shown a welcome increase in its estimated percentage.

TUBERCULOSIS.

42 notifications were received, 20 more than in 1949, 21 males and 21 females, compared with 13 males and 9 females in the previous year.

Although there were 42 cases entered in the register there were actually 38 " new " notifications.

Total cases	42
Less " transfers " into the town	4
Less late notifications	2
TOTAL	~~38~~ 36

2 female cases should have been notified in previous years (1946, 1949).

15 of the notifications were the results of visits to the Mass Radiography Unit, which worked in the town during April and May. (The report of the Director of the Unit is at the end of this section. In it, reference is made to 13 " active " cases on initial examination. Further examinations raised the number to 15).

In some of these 15 cases the disease would probably have been extensive, before the symptoms compelled the cases to consult their family doctors.

Only two of them seen by the Medical Officer had had " chest complaints " before visiting the Unit ; (1) " Bronchial Asthma " since 1945, (2) " Constantly catching colds ".

In 14 of the total number of cases there had been exposure to infection in the family. 1 case may have been infected by a tuberculous workmate. 2 others might have contracted the disease through association with tubercular friends.

It will be seen from the table (page 17) that females of the age group 15 — 25 suffered most, a contrast with the similar male age group. The 13 were young women from 18 to 24 years old.

5 were family " contacts " (including the 2 late notifications).

4 were discovered by the Radiography Unit.

The previous highest numbers notified in the past 10 years in this female age group were 4 in 1942, and 4 in 1947., and apart from the detections by the Radiography Unit and, the " late notifications " it is probable that there was a real increase in tuberculosis among young women.

Visits were made to 9 of these young women's homes in an attempt to find adverse ecological factors in housing, economic circumstances, and social habits, that could have contributed to the inability to stave off the development of active tuberculosis.

In only two of these cases could housing conditions be considered likely to be prejudicial to the maintenance of health; by overcrowding in one case, and lack of sunshine and dampness in the other.

In both instances (and in another case) there were probably other and weightier factors at work, faulty diet, injudicious use of leisure in frequent indoor recreation, and lack of rest.

For the remainder there appeared to be nothing in the manner of living that would encourage the development of the disease.

The young men have apparently been less vulnerable than the young women. This may be a " sign of the times ", among the latter, an increasing " need " to practise " false economy " in the attempt to keep up an " appearance ".

The 21 male cases included the 4 transfers from other districts, so the actual number of " new " male cases in the Borough was 17. In 1946 and 1947 the numbers were 18 and 15. 9 of the male cases were detected at the Mass Radiography Unit.

The middle aged males were slightly the highest group affected, and here labourious ,exposed occupations with natural decline of resistance probably lit up latent infections.

In addition to the Tuberculosis Health Visitors routine visits to all infected homes, and her reports on living conditions etc., the Medical Officer visited 21 houses.

In only two cases was there " actual " opposed to " official " overcrowding, with one case of darkness and dampness., and 1 of dilapidation and dampness.

In all other cases the accommodation was satisfactory.

Undernourishment was suspected in 11 cases but appeared to be unavoidable in 3 cases at the most, and 1 of these had been on a low and lowering " gastric diet " for years.

There has been for some years past a continuous annual national rise of pulmonary tuberculosis notifications, without a coincident rise in mortality.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1 — 5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15	5	2	2	3	—	—	—	—
15 — 25	4	13	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 — 45	5	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 — 65	6	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and Over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	21	21	2	3	5	1	Nil.	Nil.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

Survey at King's Lynn, 24th April, 1950 — 16th June, 1950.

PERSONS EXAMINED

Age	Under 14	14	15/24	24/34	35/44	45/59	60/and over	**Total All Ages**
Males	53	364	981	927	823	694	118	3,960
Females	48	357	1197	550	425	296	45	2,918
Total	101	721	2178	1477	1248	990	163	6,878

NUMBER OF EXAMINATIONS COMPLETED

	No. of Persons examined by Miniature X-Ray.	No. Recalled for large Films.	No. Recalled for Medica Interview.
Males	3,960	89	43
Females	2,918	55	32
Both Sexes	6,878	144	75
		(2.09%)	(1.09%)

ACTIVE AND INACTIVE T.B. CASES IN SEX AND AGE GROUPS

	Under 14	14	15/24	25/34	35/44	45/59	60/and over	**Total**
Males.								
Number examined	53	364	981	927	823	694	118	3,960
Active cases	—	—	1	3	3	1	—	8 (0.2%)
Inactive cases	—	—	4	2	2	4	—	12 (0.3½%)
Females.								
Number examined	48	357	1197	550	425	296	45	2,918
Active cases	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	5 (0.17%)
Inactive cases	—	1	3	4	3	2	—	13 (0.44%)
Both Sexes.								
Number examined	101	721	2178	1477	1248	990	163	6,878
Active cases	—	—	5	3	3	2	—	13 (0.19%)
Inactive cases	—	1	7	6	5	6	—	25 (0.36%)

Previously diagnosed Pulmonary T.B. — 7 cases (6 males and 1 female) were also x-rayed but such cases, having been previously diagnosed, are not included in above table, which shows that of the 6,878 persons examined, 38 cases of newly discovered "significant" Pulmonary T.B. were discovered, of which, 13 (8 males and 5 females) were found active on initial examination.

This compares very favourably with the average shown by Mass Radiography Units in Great Britain, of about 2%, 0.4% being active.

Other Diseases.

In addition to the diagnosis of tuberculosis, the following show the more important of other abnormalities detected :—

Chronic Bronchitis	9
Bronchiectasis	3
Pulmonary Fibrosis	1
Basal Fibrosis	11
Pleural Thickening	5
Cardiovascular lesions (Acquired)	11
Miscellaneous	12

Including 2 Dextrocardia with transposition and 3 Foreign Bodies.

HOUSING REPORT

I am indebted to Miss M. L. Keith, Housing Manager, for the following report :—

During the year, 130 families were rehoused in new dwellings, 33 of whom were transferred from pre-war Corporation houses, either because they could afford the higher rent, and were good tenants in every respect, or coupled with the fact that their numbers had changed, and they required larger or smaller accommodation. All the pre-war houses vacated were used for homeless families, who, for one reason or another were thought to be more suited for these dwellings.

Two new types of dwellings have been let this year for the first time — 2 bedroom bungalows for elderly people, and 2 and 3 room Duplex flats, for young couples. Both types have proved popular, and more bungalows are in course of construction at Gaywood and North End. These small dwellings enable some of the pre-war 3 bedroom houses to be vacated by elderly couples, thus making room for the younger people with growing families.

In order to ease the housing situation, the Corporation took over on requisition from the Ministry of Health, the North Lynn Farm Camp, formerly used as a prisoner of war camp, and later as a hostel for European Volunteer Workers. Although these huts are not ideal, especially in winter months, they help to ease a serious situation, and have been converted and adapted as well as possible for family use. They are let to those applicants who ask for them. No-one is re-housed in this camp unless he desires it, and all families are told that their stay will be confined to one year, after which a house will be found. New applicants from the waiting list will then fill up the vacancies left in the huts. To date 14 huts are let, but a further 20 are expected to be ready for habitation shortly. Rents vary from 4/- to 8/5 a week, inclusive. Cooking is done on a coal burning, free standing range, and lighting is by electricity. Sinks with taps and waste pipes are fitted, draining board, ventilated larder, and 1, 2 or 3 bedrooms according to space available. Each hut has its own W.C. with Elsan bucket, and coalhouse.

This year's building programme envisages some 2 bedroom houses, and houses built in terraces, comprising 3 and 4 bedrooms. It cannot be stressed too strongly that the main need is for speed of production, coupled with enough variation in housing units, to suit all sizes of family, and all pockets.

In spite of fairly high rents on the post war housing schemes, rents continue to come in very well, and arrears on the post war schemes have been reduced by £100 during the year. In fact, the rent arrears figure for the whole of the Corporation estates is only 0.4% of the total rent roll.

Overcrowding of the pre-war houses is a problem, but owing to the present situation cannot be eased very much. It is due, partly, to a few large families who should have another bedroom, but cannot be transferred as there are no longer houses available in the area, or because sons and daughters have married and continue to live at home. This second factor will be gradually eliminated as the housing situation eases.

Some improvements have been affected in the general appearance of the Council's old estates at South Lynn, namely the continued outside colour washing, and painting of certain houses, and the making up of entrance paths from frontage to back ways, with tarmac. Two streets have been treated in this manner, and it is proposed to do all the pre-war estates, as circumstances permit.

The general position is one of continued improved conditions on the old estates, and the maintenance of very good standards indeed on all new estates — a very slight increase in the speed of re-housing, but a serious need, ever appertaining, for hundreds more new dwellings, to house the homeless, or ill-housed families still on the waiting list, which numbered 1,300 at the end of the year.

Houses built in 1950.

(a)	2 Bedroom bungalows for middle-aged elderly people	26
(b)	Duplex flats, of 2 or 3 rooms, for young childless couples, or couples with one child	20
(c)	3 Bedroom, palour type Airey prefabricated houses	16
(d)	3 Bedroom, palour type brick houses	36
		98

ANNUAL REPORT

of

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

on the

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water.

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the following information concerning the Town's water supply.

1. The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity during the year. Some difficulty was experienced in maintaining a sufficient supply in the West Lynn area. Pending a long term settlement of the problem, steps have been put in hand for supplies to be boosted to the area.
2. Regular samples of the water were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination. 10 samples were taken by the Borough Engineer's Department and 4 were taken by the Public Health Department. Colonies per ml. on agar at 37°C have varied getween nil and 4, whilst coliform organisms have always been absent in 100 ml. 5 samples were submitted for chemical analysis and the reports state the samples did not show any evidence of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter, and that the water was fit for drinking purposes.
3. The water is a " hard " water and has no action on lead pipes. No reports of suspected contamination have been received. The regular sampling has been undertaken from household taps in all parts of the Borough and no adverse reports have been received.
4.

Population supplied direct into houses	25,000	approx.
Population supplied by standpipes	500	,,
Population without piped supply	100	,,

Agreement has been reached with the Freebrigde R.D.C. on the joint water supply scheme for the Borough and Rural District. As a result of the agreement, the Corporation will take over the existing test boreholes at Flitcham, and be responsible for the provision of new headworks, pumping station, rising main, etc. The Corporation will also increase their storage accommodation from 1 to 4 million gallons, and lay a new trunk main into the southern part of the Borough.

Sewerage.

Some trouble was experienced during the year, as a result of flooding of part of Wellesley Street, and Portland Street by sewage. This flooding has been temporarily dealt with, by the installation of a pump at the outfall at the Dock Head. The scheme for permanent solution of the problem has been accepted and is now before the Ministry of Health for loan sanction. This scheme provides for the isolation of these two streets from the general sewage system of the town, and for the discharge of the areas by means of automatic pumps. This will enable the area to be isolated from the effect of tidal conditions, and will be able to discharge at all times. Provision is also being made to ensure that the Corporation sewers are called upon to store only sewage, and storm water during the tide locked period.

Refuse Disposal.

The refuse tip in use at Hardwick Road became full, and unable to take any further quantity of refuse. By arrangement with the British Railways, and the Corporation, the area known as Harding's Pits is now being used as a controlled tip. When this new tipping area was first put into operation complaints were received from nearby residents concerning the efficacy of control. The matter was investigated and suggestions for its improvement were promptly executed. Since that date no further complaints have been received. Regular visits have been made and the tip now appears to be satisfactory.

Public Cleansing.

Street cleansing is carried out principally by means of a mechanical sweeper supplemented by hand labour. As an experiment it has now been decided to carry out street sweeping mechanically at night, with a view to overcoming the delay and difficulties experienced by reason of traffic obstruction during the day.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

During the year three samples of water were taken from the Corporation Open Air Swimming Bath and one sample from a private Swimming Pool, for chemical and bacteriological examination. The Public Analyst reported in all cases that the water was safe for bathing purposes.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following is a summary of the work done during the year under the various Public Health and Housing Acts, viz.:—

392 Special complaints and Special visits were made.
105 Informal Notices and Intimations served.
14 Statutory Notices served.

DETAILS:—

Roofs repaired or renewed	17
W.C. roofs repaired	1
Sash cords renewed	17
Windows repaired, renewed, or made to open	16
Miscellaneous defects	8
Floorboards repaired or renewed	12
Stoves repaired or renewed	7
Ceiling plaster repaired	21
Wallplaster repaired	16

Drains re-laid or repaired	8
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	5
W.C. pans renewed	4
Suitable ashbins provided	2
Water closet cisterns repaired and renewed	13
Dampness of walls	8
Yards repaired	3
Drains cleared	26
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	6
Flues repaired	4
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	2
Stair treads and risers repaired	1
Doors repaired or renewed	5
Eaves gutters provided and fixed	2
Walls repaired	2
Pail closets abolished and new water closets and drains provided	2
Drains connected to sewers	2
Inspection chambers provided	5
Chimneys repaired	3

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health and Housing Acts) 364

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 494

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 249

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 414

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their officers 77

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 7

(2) Number of such dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners 8

(b) By local Authority in default of owners Nil.

(B) Proceedings by Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 7

(2) Number of such dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:

(a) By owners 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .... Nil.

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .... Nil.

Housing Survey.

In anticipation of possible action under Housing Acts, a Housing Survey was commenced.

A detailed inspection has been made of 31 dwellings.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are 2 registered Common Lodging Houses in the area which have been visited periodically. In co-operation with the keeper of one lodging house, all rooms and beds were sprayed with insecticide, and all mattresses and bedding were subjected to steam disinfection.

Re-Housing.

126 premises used for human habitation were visited to ascertain more complete information for the assessment of need of housing applicants.

Meetings with Owners and Tradesmen.

39 meetings were held with owners and tradesmen with regard to requirements concerning defective houses, drains, etc.

House Drains.

During the year 120 drains were tested and examined, and appropriate action taken.

2 pail closets were abolished and new water closets installed and connected to the main sewer. The Corporation paid 50 per cent. of the cost, in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

13 inspections to tents, vans and sheds were made in respect of Licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The Corporation licensed 2 sites and 6 premises for the siting of removeable dwellings.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas.

100 rooms were disinfected for vermin. There was a considerable increase in the number of complaints received during the summer months concerning flea infestation. In all cases advice was given, and the Council's offer to assist with disinfestation was accepted.

In addition, 363 rooms of Council houses were treated following vacation of the premises.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Two rodent operators were employed throughout the year and sewer treatment was carried out by them in addition to their normal duties. The following Table shows the amount of work done:—

Nature of Property	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of treatments carried out by arrangement with Occupier		Block treatments of properties	
			Rats	Mice only	Number of Blocks	Number of separate occupancies
Local Authorities' Property	151	1,161	138	11	—	—
Dwelling House	115	427	77	36	—	—
Business Premises	244	1,094	90	105	1	4
Agricultural Property	48	435	24	—	—	—
Total	558	3,117	329	152	1	4

In addition, the Council sewers were treated during June and December.

Arrangements have been made with several of the business premises which store quantities of food for them to be under the constant supervision of the Corporation's rat operatives, and for all treatment to be carried out by them. This arrangement has been found eminently satisfactory from the point of view of both the occupier and the Corporation.

Offensive Trades.

The number of Offensive Trades on the register at the end of the year was as follows:—

Gut Scrapers	2
Rag and Bone dealers	2
Tripe Boilers	2

Disinfection.

Aerial disinfection was carried out to 363 rooms and 29 Nursing Home Wards.

119 Blankets, 45 Mattresses, 84 Pillows and 138 miscellaneous articles were disinfected at the steam disinfector.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.

The following licences were granted by the Local Authority:—

2 Licences for Pasteurising Establishments.
5 Dealer's Licences to use the designation of Tuberculin Tested.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, which came into operation on 1st October, 1949, prescribed two tests in respect of Pasteurised Milk, the Phosphatase Test for adequate heat treatment, and the Methylene Blue Test for the keeping quality.

Complete re-organisation has begun in one Pasteurising Establishment, but due to the difficulty of obtaining delivery of certain machinery, the dairy is still in a transitional stage. This made the work of milk processing more difficult due to the intermittent presence of builders and plant fitters. When the works have been completed, the pasteurising process will change from the Holder to H.T.S.T. method.

In the other instance, a new pasteurising plant has been established using the Holder process. The existing dairy has been completely re-organised by the construction of a new refrigerator store, installation of up-to-date machinery and improved dairy technique.

Two samples of milk were taken monthly from each Pasteurising Establishment. The milk failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test on one occasion, but this, in the opinion of the Public Analyst, was due, in some measure to the high atmospheric temperature prevailing during the transit of the sample to the Laboratory. All samples passed the Phosphatase Test.

39 samples of raw milk were taken in order to detect any adulteration.

One sample was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 3.66% and indicated the presence of 2.8% added water. A further sample from the same source indicated 3.77% added water. An early morning visit to the farm was made and a defective cooler was detected. A further sample of milk proved to be genuine.

In another instance a sample was reported to be 22% deficient in fat and a repeat sample was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 9.0%. The matter was reported to the Divisional Weights and Measures Inspector of the Norfolk County Council, who undertook investigation at the farm which was outside the Borough. Following this action a repeat sample proved to be genuine.

A small consignment of milk reaching a dairy in the Borough was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 21%. A repeat sample was reported to be deficient in fat to the extent of 17.33%. Visits were made to the farm where it was discovered that there were three cows in milk. "Appeal to Cow" samples showed that two of the cows were giving milk below the presumptive standard based upon the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939.

A sample of milk taken from a churn on arrival at a dairy in the Borough was deficient in fat to the extent of 5.66%. A further sample proved to be genuine.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year 74 samples of Food and Drugs as shown on the following Table were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination:—

Article	Samples Taken		Unsatisfactory Report	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
Milk	39	—	7	—
Sugar	1	1	—	1
Malt Vinegar	—	1	—	—
Cake Mixture	—	1	—	—
Camphorated Oil	—	1	—	—
Sage and Onion Stuffing	—	1	—	—
Olive Oil	—	1	—	—
Glycerine	—	1	—	—
Mixed Peel	—	1	—	—
Pepper Flavoured Compound	—	1	—	—
Jelly	—	5	—	—
Soup Powder	—	2	—	—
Table Cream	—	1	—	—
Salad Cream	—	1	—	—
Sausages	6	—	—	—
Coffee and Chicory	—	2	—	—
Coffee Extract	—	1	—	—
Bicarbonate of Soda	—	1	—	—
Gravy Powder	—	1	—	—
Baking Powder	—	1	—	—
Tea	—	1	—	—
Mustard	—	1	—	—
Ground Ginger	—	1	—	—
Tomato Ketchup	—	1	—	—
	46	28	7	1

In addition, 12 samples of Fruit Pulp and 4 samples of shellfish were examined. See Report of Port Medical Officer of Health.

The informal sample of sugar was reported to be adulterated with ground rice. A formal sample was taken immediately the unsatisfactory result was received, but this proved to be genuine.

The unsatisfactory milk samples are detailed undert the heading "Milk Supply."

Markets.

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of sanitary conditions and practices in connection with the handling of food, and sale of food in the open air have been adopted by the Corporation.

48 visits were made to the markets during the year.

ICE CREAM

On 31st December there were 5 persons registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and 58 persons registered as dealers who obtained supplies for 13 sources outside the Borough. 43 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for Methylene Blue (Provisional Grading) Test, 11 from manufacturers, 27 from dealers and 5 from itinerant vendors.

The following are the results of the samples taken from local manufacturers:—

Ice Cream Samples, 1950.

GRADING OF ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

Manufacturer	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
A	I	—	—	—	II	—	—	—
B	—	I	—	—	—	II	—	—
C	—	II	—	I	—	—	—	I
D	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—
E	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—
F	—	—	—	—	III	—	I	—

The following Table shows the gradings of all samples compared with those taken in 1949:—

COMPARATIVE TABLE

1949			1950		
Grade	Number of Samples	%	Grade	Number of Samples	%
I	11	27.5	I	24	55.8
II	13	32.5	II	8	18.6
III	7	17.5	III	5	11.6
IV	9	22.5	IV	6	14.0
	40	100.0		43	100.0

The general trend so far as grading is concerned is satisfactory. It will be observed that the number of samples in Grade I and II has risen from 60% in 1949 to 73% in 1950.

The fat content of the samples was as follows:—

FAT CONTENT	NUMBER OF SAMPLES
Between 2.5 and 3 per cent.	1
,, 3 ,, 4 ,, ,,	4
,, 4 ,, 5 ,, ,,	1
,, 5 ,, 6 ,, ,,	3
,, 6 ,, 8 ,, ,,	12
,, 8 ,, 10 ,, ,,	11
,, 10 ,, 13 ,, ,,	9
Over 13 per cent.	2

Average Fat Content — 81.%.

The average fat content of the 11 samples of local manufacturers was 6.11%, whereas the remaining 32 were manufacturers outside the Borough and had an average fat content of 8.7%.

The complete results are shown in the following Table:—

ICE CREAM SAMPLES, 1950.

Sample No.	Methylene Blue (Provisional Grading) Test	Percentage Fat Content	Remarks
1	II	3.8	*
2	III	9.6	*
3	III	9.2	*
4	I	7.3	Local Manufacturer A
5	III	9.18	*
6	I	10.32	*
7	I	11.1	Local Manufacturer B
8	II	2.52	Local Manufacturer C
9	I	3.0	*
10	II	10.3	*
11	IV	7.9	*
12	I	14.0	*
13	II	9.6	*
14	IV	7.5	*
15	I	3.7	Local Manufacturer C
16	I	5.45	Local Manufacturer D
17	II	7.45	*
18	I	9.25	*
19	I	14.7	*
20	IV	9.55	*
21	II	6.0	Local Manufacturer A
22	II	6.3	*
23	II	9.2	Local Manufacturer B
24	I	3.7	Local Manufacturer E

ICE CREAM SAMPLES—continued.

Sample No.	Methelyne Blue (Provisional Grading) Test	Percentage Fat Content	Remarks
25	I	7.8	*
26	III	8.3	*
27	IV	10.4	*
28	IV	10.8	*
29	IV	5.0	*
30	III	6.5	Local Manufacturer F
31	I	11.4	*
32	I	10.5	*
33	I	6.7	Local Manufacturer F
34	I	10.8	*
35	I	10.0	*
36	I	9.3	*
37	I	4.97	*
38	I	5.05	Local Manufacturer C
39	I	9.2	*
40	I	7.8	*
41	I	7.1	*
42	I	7.3	*
43	II	8.7	*

The Reports of the Sub-Committee composed of members of the Public Health Laboratory Service, appointed to inquire into tests of bacteriological grading of ice cream states that the Methylene Blue Reduction Test confirmed previous conclusions, that the test affords a simple and practicable means for the routine grading of ice cream. It also concludes that the assumed value of the coliform test in assessing the safety of ice cream is without adequate scientific foundation.

In addition, 5 samples of Ice Lollies were submitted for bacteriological examination, 3 of these were of local manufacture. The Public Analyst reported that the results may be considered satisfactory. The sticks which are used for this product vary considerably in their quality. Some are smooth and clean, whilst the rough surface of others are at least potential carriers of dirt.

UNSOUND FOOD.

Slaughterhouses.

During the year 498 visits were made to the Slaughterhouse which is controlled by the Ministry of Food. The facilities available at this building are not satisfactory but considerable improvements are envisaged for 1951.

	Tons	Cwt.	Lbs.
Weight of meat condemned in Slaughterhouse	23	14	68
Weight of Offal	19	19	96
Unsound or damaged butchers' meat condemned in shops	—	16	76
	44	11	16

12 cases of Cysticercus Bovis were detected in the following sites:—

1 cyst in Internal Masseter Muscles	4
1 cyst in External Masseter Muscles	7
2 cysts in External Masseter Musceles	1

The entire carcase and offals were subjected to freezing for a minimum of three weeks prior to allocation in every case.

CARCASES, PARTS OF CARCASES, AND ORGANS, EXAMINED, CONDEMNED, AND DESTROYED, FOR DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

DISEASE OR CONDITION	Whole Carcases and offal	Forequarters	Hindquarters	Meat, lbs.	Heads	Tongues	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Part Livers	Spleens	Kidneys	Mesentery	Tripe, Stomach and Guts	Udders
1. CATTLE.															
Abscesses	—	—	—	415	22	22	6	2	230	—	3	9	2	5	—
Actinomycosis	—	—	—	—	55	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Angiomatosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bone Taint	—	—	1	296	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bruising	2	3	1	2892	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congestion	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Echinococcus	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Emaciation	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis	—	—	—	—	12	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Decomposition	—	—	—	137	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Distomatosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	551	698	—	—	—	—	—
Fatty Degeneration	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fouled in Transport	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation	—	—	—	117	—	—	5	—	—	—	20	—	18	16	—
Malodour	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mastitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Melanosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moribund	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mouldy	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
Necrosis	—	—	—	95	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Oedema and Emaciation	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—
Peritonitis and Oedema	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Trauma	—	1	—	224	—	—	3	4	3	—	—	—	4	4	—
Traumatic Pericarditis and Associated Oedema	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Johnnes Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Uraemia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. CALVES.															
Congestion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moribund	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immaturity	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Joint Ill	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. SHEEP.															
Abscesses	—	—	—	16	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congestion	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cystic	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Distomatosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fevered	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury	—	—	—	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Echinococcus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peritonitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Strongyli	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema and Emaciation	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. PIGS.															
Abscesses	—	—	—	108	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bruising	—	—	—	414	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congestion	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cystic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fouled in Transport	—	—	—	3	1	1	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moribund	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immaturity	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	56	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation	—	—	—	15	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	31	—
Endocarditis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Bleeding	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Necrosis	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	*Cows*	*Calves*	*Sheep and Lambs*	*Pigs*
Number killed	2619	786	1690	6111	882
Number inspected	2619	786	1690	6111	882
All diseases except Tuberculsois:—					
Whole carcases condemned	13	22	7	22	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1024	308	4	122	119
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	39.59%	41.98%	.65%	2.35%	14.62%
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcases condemned	22	24	1	—	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	418	228	2	—	54
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	16.8%	32.06%	0.17%	—	6.8%

OTHER FOODS.

The following articles of food, by reason of decomposition or damage were found to be unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered. Wherever practicable, salvageable food was returned through trade channels for re-processing.

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS.

6 lbs. of Sausages
8 lbs. of Brawn
72 lbs. of Jellied Veal
163 lbs. of tinned Ham
8 lbs. of tinned Chicken
42 tins of Meat and Gravy
27 tins of Pork
9 Meat Pies
60 lbs. of Ox Liver
30 lbs. of Rabbit
11 lbs. of Bacon
185 lbs. of Luncheon Meat
4 lbs. of Suet
45 lbs. of Minced Beef Loaf
909 lbs. of Corned Beef
34 tins of Rabbit

GROCERIES, SWEETMEATS, ETC.

3 lbs. of Biscuits
1 lb. of Cooking Fat
181 lbs. of Cheese
41 bottles of Coffee
18 lbs. of Cereals
432 pkts. of Gravy Powder
362 pkts. of Jelly
74 jars of Lemon Curd
11 lbs. of Margarine
288 Eggs
7 lbs. of Rice
507 bottles of Salad Cream
48 bottle of Sauce
1 lbs. of Tea
8 lbs. of Butter
3 lbs. of Currants
333 pkts. of Cake Mixture
15 lbs. of Cake
2 cwt. 30 lbs. of Flour
103 lbs. of Jam
2 bottles of Junket
19 lbs. of Mincemeat
14 Christmas Puddings
18 jars of Pickles
63 jars of Sandwich Spread
12 lbs. of Sugar
4 bottles of Boiled Sweets

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

465 lbs. of Pears
1 ton of Potatoes
417 lbs. of Tomatoes
10 lbs. of Red Currants
40 lbs. of Strawberries

FISH.

16 stone of Mackerel
1 cwt. of Skate
40 lbs. of frozen Lobsters

CANNED GOODS.

31 tins of Blackberries
4 tins of Apricots
20 tins of Beetroot
70 tins of Carrots
10 tins of Gooseberries
24 tins of Herring
298 tins of Peas
17 tins of Peaches
186 tins of Pilchards
5 tins of Grapefruit
10 tins of Rhubarb
15 tins of Salmon
6 tins of Tomato Juice
51 tins of Spaghetti
140 tins of Beans
325 tins of Cherries
12 tins of Apples
75 tins of Gherkins
1 gallon of Fruit Pulp
2218 tins of Milk
694 tins of Plums
13 tins of Pears
20 tins of Grapes
12 tins of Parsnips
210 tins of Soup
29 tins of Shellfish
6 tins of Mixed Vegetables
2 tins of Strawberries

FACTORIES

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical Power	144	24	2	Nil.
Factories without Mechanical Power	54	24	1	Nil.
TOTAL	198	48	3	Nil.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
			Referred	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	1	—	1	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—				
(*a*) Insufficient	1	1	—	1
(*b*) Unsuitable or Defective	6	6	—	6
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1
Other Offences	1	—	1	—
TOTAL	11	9	3	8

KING'S LYNN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PORT AND BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of King's Lynn.

Mr. Mayor, Madam, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the Port Health Service in King's Lynn for the year 1950.

No cases of infectious diseases were brought to my notice, and little was found wrong with the sanitary conditions of vessels using the Port.

Dr. M. D. Mackenzie, Principal Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, inspected the Port on 21st August, 1950, and " noted with satisfaction " that the Port Health Service was being efficiently administered.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HAMILTON,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels reported as having or having had, during the voyage, infectoous disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
(Foreign)—							
Steamers	229	68,379	9	27	5	1	—
*Motor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign	229	68,379	9	27	5	1	—
(Coastwise) —							
Steamers	689	153,236	5	9	3	—	—
*Motor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise	689	153,236	5	9	3	—	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise	918	221,615	14	36	8	1	1

* Includes mechanically-propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. Character and Trade of Port.

(a) Passenger traffic during the year:—

One passenger arriving at the Port from abroad was interviewed by the Port Medical Officer before being permitted to land. No information was received concerning any other passenger traffic.

(b) Cargo traffic:—

The principal imports during the year consisted of petroleum, fertiliser, fruit pulp, strawboard, timber, grain and potatoes.

The principal exports were sugar, molasses, coal, potatoes, grain and sand.

(c) Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive:—

Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg, Heulva, Wismar, Beverwijk, Casablanca, Gothenburg, Delfzijl, Ghent, Bremen.

III. Water Supply.

The main water supply for both the Port and Shipping is from Corporation mains. Ships are supplied from hydrants situated on the quayside and around the Docks. There are no water boats employed.

2 samples of water were taken from hydrants in the Docks, and bacteriological and chemical examination was carried out by the Public Analyst. On each occasion coliform organisms were absent in 100 mls., and the Public Analyst was of the opinion that the samples did not show any evidences of pollution with harmful organic or inorganic matter. The water was considered fit for drinking purposes.

A sample of drinking water taken from the tap in the galley of a vessel was submitted to the Public Analyst. who reported for bacteriological and chemical examination. The Public Analyst reported that coliform organisms were absent in 100 mls., and that the water was fit for drinking purposes.

IV. Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933 and 1945.

(1) Declarations of Health, on completion, are forwarded to the Port Medical Officer of Health by the Customs Officer.

(2) Where necessary, vessels are boarded by the Sanitary Officer by means of the Pilot Cutter.

(3) Information concerning inward vessels requiring special attention is received by wireless by the Harbour Master, and communicated to the Port Medical Officer of Health.

(4) The mooring station is situated within the Bentinck Dock. There is no mooring station outside the Dock.

(5) A standing exemption from detention under Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer in respect of all ships, ships, except those " infected " or " suspected," to enable them to proceed to their place of mooring, discharge or loading, modified practique being given, and the Medical Officer notified.

(6) No experience has been gained as to the working of Article 16.

(7) No arrangements have been made under sub-headings (a) or (c).

(8) Black rats caught or found dead about the Docks were subjected to Postmortem, and microscopical examinations.

(9) Bacteriological or Pathological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Norwich.

(10) The Venereal Disease Clinic is held at the West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital, London Road, King's Lynn, on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 p.m. Attention is directed to this service by delivery of printed details as to the location, days, and hours of the clinic, to the Master of every vessel arriving at the Quayside and Docks. Details of the clinic are also exhibited at the Docks.

(11) The internment of the dead is carried out by the Local Authority in accordance with the National Assistance Act, 1948.

No cases of Infectious Sickness were landed from vessels.

No cases of Infectious Sickness were reported as having occurred on vessels during the voyage.

V. Measures Against Rodents.

(1) With the co-operation of the Port Authorities, arrangements have been made for—

(a) All ropes, warps, etc., used for mooring the ship to be fitted with canvas rat guards 2 ft. long to be daily coated with tar, or fitted with shields or discs. All rat guards are fitted clear of the ships and quay, and are adjusted with the rise and the fall of the tide.

(b) No gangway, chute, or plank, etc., connecting the ship to the shore, except those in actual use, are permitted. Those in use are withdrawn as soon as possible at night. These measures are carried out as a practice on all vessels from African Ports, and grain-carrying ships, when conditions, in the latter case, allow.

(2) The methods used for deratisation are in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(3) Two rodent operators are employed jointly by the King's Lynn Borough and Port Health Authority. In addition to the inspections made by the Port Medical Officer and the Port Sanitary Inspectors, the ships in the Port, quay, wharves, and warehouses in the vicinity of the Docks are inspected by the rodent operators systematically.

(4) (a) In general, the wharves and warehouses of modern construction are rat-proof;
(b) In one instance it was established that the rats in a warehouse was attributed to the access gained to the waterfront by means of a disused grain elevator tunnel. Arrangements were made for the tunnel to be rat-proofed.

Rates destroyed during the year:—

(I) It was not necessary for any rat destruction to be carried out on vessels arriving at the Dock.

(II) Approximately 120 brown rats and 29 black rats were destroyed from the Docks, Quay, Wharves and Warehouses during the year.

VI. Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

Regular inspections have been made.

Nationality of vessel.	Number inspected in 1950.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	15	1	—	3
Other Nations	35	3	—	5

VII. Food Inspection.

Twelve samples of the following foodstuffs were taken on arrival at the Port:—

Strawberry Pulp	4
Blackcurrant Pulp	2
Greengage Pulp	2
Plum Pulp	1
Cherry Pulp	2
Sweetened Raspberry Juice	1

The Public Analyst reported 11 samples to be in conformity with the Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations, 1925—1940. In one instance a sample was reported to have an amount of sulphur dioxide in excess of the permitted standard. This consignment was not intended to be sold to consumers, but to be used by the importers as a raw material. The Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations, 1925—1940, were not applicable in this instance.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934.

Four samples of mussels were examined by the Bacteriologist and found to contain organisms of faecal pollution.

This has been a common finding when mussels have been examined, and a reputation for contamination has injured the marketing of Wash mussels for human consumption.

The Shell-fish beds and layings in the area within the jurisdiction of the Port Health Authority are under the control of the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee.

This Committee presented proposals to the Ministry of Agricultural and Fisheries for the establishment of a station at King's Lynn for the cleansing of Wash mussels. Plans, detailed specifications, and all other technical details received the approval of the Ministry, but the Committee was informed:—

(1) That there was little hope of a substantial grant, for the project, from the Development Commission;

(2) That under Section 39 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, County Councils and Local Authorities were enabled to provide cleansing faciities.

The construction of such a station would be a costly business, but it would almost certainly result in a satisfactorily expanding demand for mussels. It would be a fairer solution of the problem of protection of public health, than the closing of some, maybe most, of the layings, and further decline in the fishing industry.

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